

Catamount Spirit

A Publication for Faculty and Staff of Potomac State College of West Virginia University

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Dr. Jay Badenhoop, Assistant Professor of Chemistry (left), is shown with Dr. Douglas Wilmes, Dean of Curriculum and Instruction, and the award Dr. Badenhoop received from the WV Community College Association for "Outstanding Contributions to Community/Technical College Education."

Badenhoop's Commitment to Students Honored

Assistant Professor of Chemistry Jay Badenhoop was recently recognized by the West Virginia Community College Association for "Outstanding Contributions to Community/Technical College Education." The following, written by Dr. Douglas R. Wilmes, Dean for Curriculum and Instruction, appeared in the Awards Banquet 2002 Program for the West Virginia Community College Association.

"Dr. Badenhoop has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to providing direct support for students. In addition to carrying out his teaching responsibilities as a member of the faculty and assuming administrative responsibilities as Math and Science Coordinator, Dr. Badenhoop has proved himself repeatedly to be willing to take on time-consuming and demanding roles that enrich the collegiate experience of students.

"For example, Dr. Badenhoop has served as coordinator of the orientation weekend for students. He serves as chairperson of the Judicial Board. Many other examples of his willingness to give of himself could be cited.

"I don't believe Dr. Badenhoop's values permit him to reject any request for his assistance, as long as the benefit is to the students served by the college. In his dedication to students as individuals and his awareness of

the importance of student experiences both in and out of the classroom, Dr. Badenhoop has made outstanding contributions to his college and the students it serves."

Dr. Wilmes accompanied Dr. Badenhoop to Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV, where he was presented with a plaque in honor of receiving the award.

NCA UPDATE

Dr. Robert Appleson, of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (NCA) of Schools and Colleges, visited Potomac State College (PSC) of West Virginia University on Wednesday, October 16, in preparation for the College's self study/accreditation process. NCA encompasses 19 states and each institution is assigned a liaison to assist them in their planning.

While on campus, Dr. Appleson met with President Mary Rittling to discuss general campus issues and to talk about the evaluation team which will be assembled to visit the campus in April 2004. He also met with Dr. Douglas Wilmes, Dean for Curriculum and Instruction, to gain an overview of academic issues, and with Professor Dinah Courier, Coordinator of the Self Study.

Dr. Appleson commented positively about the setting of the campus saying that it has the appearance of a small four-year college, an impression not always evident at a two-year insti-

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The College is stepping up its recruitment efforts in Frederick County, VA, where residents can receive a 50 percent tuition discount off the out-of-state rates. Travelers can't help but notice this 16' x 40' billboard on Route 50 East of Winchester, just four miles outside the city. "We are very appreciative to Carolyn Curry, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, and WVU for making this possible," said René Trezise, Director of Marketing and Communications for PSC of WVU. She states that the billboard advertising will be supported with radio ads in the Frederick County region featuring PSC student testimonials.

PSC Attracts 67 PROMISE Scholars

Still in its infancy, the PROMISE Scholarship was awarded to 3,483 students across the state. Of this number, the average overall GPA was 3.71, with the average SAT 1136 and the average ACT 24.

Potomac State College of West Virginia University placed 10th out of 32 state-wide institutions, having 67 enrolled PROMISE Scholars. "This is not a bad number considering that these students could have gone tuition-free anywhere in the state," said Director of Enrollment Services Beth Little.

The PROMISE Scholarship provides an opportunity for in-state students to maximize their excellence by rewarding them with a tuition-free scholarship. To receive the PROMISE Scholarship a student must have a 3.0 GPA, an ACT score of at least 21 or a combined

SAT score of 1000, and they must be a West Virginia resident.

Executive Director of the PROMISE Program, Robert Morgenstern was on campus October 21 to inform interested high school students about the qualifying criteria for receiving the PROMISE Scholarship. He also attended a reception in honor of the 67 recipients and answered questions concerning renewal criteria.

To continue to attract high quality students, Potomac State is offering special benefits including priority registration opportunities, a special honors seminar, priority consideration for residence hall selection, and consideration for additional institutional academic scholarships.



WHAG-TV, a local NBC affiliate, interviewed Robert Morgenstern, Executive Director of the PROMISE Program while he visited Potomac State College. The segment aired on the following day's 6 o'clock news.

Foundation Update



Joy S. Eggleston

Potomac State College is currently in the midst of the Building Greatness Campaign. This campaign seeks to raise funds to benefit the students, faculty, programs and campus of Potomac State College. To date, we have already raised nearly \$2,000,000.

In January of 2003, we will be kicking off the faculty and staff portion of the campaign, Building Greatness From Within. Our goal for this initiative is to have each and every faculty and staff member participate in the campaign, no matter what the amount. Who better understands the significance of Potomac State College than those who serve its mission every day? This is why support from within will help to inspire others as we strive to reach our goals for the future.

Joy S. Eggleston
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Assistant Director of Constituency Development
WVU Foundation

(NCA Update...continued from page 1)

tution. He cited areas upon which the site evaluation team would focus: (1) Assessment of academic programs and general education, and (2) Allocation of resources as it relates to institutional effectiveness.

A new Assessment Committee was formed by the Faculty Executive Committee with Mimi Vandenberg being named chairperson.

Dr. Appleson and members of the Self Study Steering Committee met for lunch in the Potomac Café at which time the committee presented a Power Point presentation outlining the topics they were studying. He also met with the newly reorganized Assessment Committee to explain strategies that the committee might want to consider and fielded questions.

As part of the on-going assessment effort, a team participated in an American Association of Higher Education and North Central Association workshop November 6-8 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Participants worked with a mentor to develop a capstone project to assist with assessment here at the college. To learn more about this workshop, see the article on the insert.

Cather Nominated to Who's Who

Dr. Louise Cather, Humanities Coordinator over the English Department at Potomac State College (PSC) of West Virginia University (WVU), has been nominated for inclusion in the seventh edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2002.

This is an exceptional honor since the nomination came from a successful former student who recommended her because she made a difference in her life. Only high school and college students who have been cited for academic excellence themselves, are invited to nominate one teacher from their entire academic experience.

Dr. Cather earned an A.A. degree from PSC, and her B.S., M.A., and doctorate all from WVU. She has received numerous other awards and recognitions including Outstanding Teacher of the Year from PSC in 1971.



Dr. Louise Cather

President's Holiday Message

Faculty and Staff:

As I reflect on the Thanksgiving Season, I continue to be grateful for good health, a wonderful family and the opportunity to serve our students.

As a college community working together, we make Potomac State College of West Virginia University a college to be proud of.



My husband and I wish all of you a happy and safe Thanksgiving Holiday Season. Relax and enjoy.

Mary Rittling
Potomac State College President
& West Virginia University
Regional Vice President



President Rittling

Four Attend Assessment Conference

An assessment conference sponsored by North Central Association (NCA) and the American Association for Higher Education on November 6-8 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, was attended by representatives from Potomac State College (PSC) of West Virginia University. Attending were Dr. Douglas Wilmes, Dean for Curriculum and Instruction; Professor Andrea Bucklew and Dr. Louise Cather, Academic Coordinators; and Dinah Courier, NCA Self-Study Coordinator.

The conference focused upon changing institutional priorities and developing an understanding of the value of assessing student learning.

Team members attended workshops on a variety of topics, including assessing learning outcomes, using rubrics, strategic budgeting to support assessment, creating portfolios, and assessing general education.

Each team also completed a capstone project to facilitate the assessment process on its campus. The PSC team developed plans for Spring 2003 and for the 2003-04 academic year. Initiatives proposed in the project include assessment of distance learning, completion of a minimum number of course outlines, and designation of general education competencies.

During the 2003-04 year, the team proposes completing one general education assessment and starting a second, developing a three-year assessment cycle, offering professional development, having an all-campus assessment day, and completing program assessment in one A.A and one A.A.S. program.



Professor of Biology Paula Piehl (far left) is shown with a group of participants at the National Wildlife Federation 2002 Family Summit, held in Big Sky Resort, Montana, where she taught a class this summer.

Piehl Teaches at Montana Summit

For the second year in a row, Professor Paula Piehl spent a week of her summer teaching with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and the Family Summits program. The location of the 2002 summit was Big Sky Resort in Montana.

The NWF has been conducting its popular Family Summits for 32 years, each in a different location throughout the United States. The goal of the summit is to help people get away from the pressures and distractions of daily living, and simply experience the joys and values of nature from first-hand experiences with this unique, family-oriented, educational vacation.

One participant whose family has returned to the Summit for 15 years had this to say, "A Family Summit is an incredible opportunity for all ages to learn about and enjoy the wild outdoors, and to learn how to ensure that it will be there for our children's, children's children."

Piehl's class, "Rocky Mountain Woodies: Identification of Woody Plants with an Emphasis on the Rocky Mountains" was well attended. The course consisted of half-day workshops where participants learned to identify woody plants and half-day field trips where they were able to apply their identification skills in a natural habitat.

We appreciate feedback from alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the college. Recently, we received several notes of appreciation, as well as verbal praise, for the new initiatives the College is undertaking as well as compliments regarding the overall appearance of the campus. This speaks well of everyone.

In this edition of the Catamount Spirit we want to share some of these encouraging notes with you.

Potomac State College Staff.
To thank you for
your kindness and sympathy
at a time when it was
deeply appreciated

Thank you for the
sandwich platter and pre
sent to our home after Don's
death. Your kindness was
appreciated. The Starcher Family

Family of recently deceased PSC
Horticulture Professor, Don Starcher

Thanks so much for your note. We have had a couple of "daughter weddings" too. They are such special and wonderful times in life. We missed you, but sure understand.

I wanted you to know how much my wife Terri, daughters Carla and Tami and I enjoyed and appreciated last weekend.

I am so proud and pleased to be a Potomac State Alumni Achievement Award recipient.

I have always been "Potomac State Proud," but I sensed a new level of energy and enthusiasm last weekend.

I have a feeling the success of Potomac State is on a rapid upward slope.

Congratulations and
Best Wishes,



Recipient of 2002 Achievement Award

Dear President Ritting,

My husband, Hal and I enjoyed meeting you at the PSC Mixer on August 17th. What a fun event! We met so many students and Chris, our son, introduced us to many of your staff. We left for home after the Convocation Sunday evening knowing that Chris made the right decision about attending Potomac State College. Even his brother and sister were excited for him.

Now that Labor Day weekend is over and Chris has had the time to "catch up" with us - we know he is returning to PSC to study hard and enjoy his next two years with you.

Thank you so much.



Parent of 2002 Freshman Student

Dolloph Organizing Community Education

She's been sifting through files, knee-deep in papers and trying to figure out what to keep and what takes priority.

Dolloph has been working diligently since accepting the position of Director of Workforce Training & Community Education at Potomac State College (PSC) of West Virginia University (WVU).

Dolloph received an A.B.S. from Becker Junior College, a B.S. from Plymouth State College and a M.A. from Dartmouth College. She has completed all but her dissertation in Adult Education Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University and is now a Doctoral Candidate in Technology Education Studies at WVU.

Dolloph has a varied background and has held many interesting positions including ski instructor, ballet instructor and school proprietor, retail manager, teacher and most recently as Director of Shepherd College's South Branch office.

Dolloph has been appointed to the Workforce Investment Board and is in the process of working with tech prep with community schools. She has done hospitality training for a major hotel chain in Morgantown and states, "I'm looking forward to working with more businesses in the hospitality and tourism industry."

Dolloph has worked with businesses regarding business etiquette, telephone etiquette, customer service, supervisory training, conflict management, and is currently working with the WV Bankers Association to organize and teach courses to local bankers in Moorefield and Romney.

She will also be organizing workshops in cooperation with local businesses for training in various fields including digital photography and web design.



Frances Dolloph

Catamount Spirit

The Catamount Spirit is a publication for the faculty and staff of Potomac State College of West Virginia University developed by the Marketing & Communications Department. Suggestions or submissions for articles and comments can be directed to:

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New College Website Now Available to Visitors

The long-awaited and much-anticipated new Potomac State College of WVU Web site is finally online. While visitors can reach the site through the old address, www.psc.wvu.edu, there is an official new address, www.potomacstatecollege.edu that will be used on all upcoming marketing materials.

"I realize this has been a long time coming; however, a lot of thought and research went into determining the best product for our campus," stated René Trezise, Director of Marketing & Communications for the College. "The 'beauty' of this site is that it is powered by a SiteLever content management system. SiteLever is a browser-based system that allows designated individuals to access password-protected areas to specific sections of the Web site. These individuals can add and maintain their portion of the Web site without having to know any programming languages, such as HTML."

"Any changes pass through an automatic workflow environment for approval. Once a supervisor approves and sends the info to Marketing & Communications only Debi Cruse or I have the ability to post the changes to the Internet," said Trezise.

Providing this service and working with the Marketing & Communications department is a company based in Chicago, IL, which is developing this software especially for smaller colleges. "This company realizes there is certainly a niche for institutions that can't fund a full-time Webmaster, let alone a department, like many of the larger institutions," said Trezise. The server is co-located with the primary location being in Fort Lauderdale, FL, and the second site in San Diego, CA.

For a while, visitors will notice empty pages when they visit the site. "I ask that visitors be patient with us this semester while we're 'under construction' and busy training individuals and working out any workflow and database glitches," said Trezise.

"Next semester we'll work on the second phase of implementation which includes giving faculty members their own page and building photo galleries for various departments. By the time all is said and done, we will have met a majority of the requests that were made during focus group meetings when this project began almost two years ago. For example, students stated that they liked to see photographs of other students, the alumni

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Potomac State College website. At the top, there is a banner with the text "SUCCEED HERE". Below the banner, the college's name "Potomac State College" and its affiliation with "West Virginia University" are displayed. A navigation menu includes links for "Prospective Students", "Current Students", "Faculty & Staff", and "Alumni & Friends". On the left side, there is a sidebar with links for "Annual PSC of WVU", "Academics", "Admissions & Financial Aid", "Athletics", "Counselor/Childcare Center", "Giving to PSC", "News & Events", and "Student Life". The main content area features a large image of students sitting around a table, a news section with recent articles, and a calendar for November 2002. The bottom of the page includes copyright information and links to "campus calendar", "ampus memory", "Site Map", and "Impact US".

requested a bulletin board messaging system, and coaches wanted to be able to post stats and scores as soon as possible after a game among other suggestions.

"I'm really excited about our Web site for a number of reasons. First, it gives the various departments ownership of the site. Second, statistical information will be available to us such as the number of unique visits we receive on a daily basis as well as the geographic areas from which these visitors are coming. And third, I see the site being very dynamic because everyday someone will be making changes. Our site will always be a work in progress," concluded Trezise.

**WITH ALL OF THE HUSTLE & BUSTLE & HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES GOING ON,
DON'T FORGET TO MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR.**

December 3 – College/Community Chorus and Band Christmas Concert in Church-McKee Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Contact Dr. Hawkins at 788-6965.

December 7 – Holiday Open House from 4 – 6 p.m. in the Potomac Café

December 7 – Social Club Christmas Dinner at Candlewyck Inn at 7 p.m. Contact Diana Grady at 788-6842 for reservations.

December 10 – Highland Arts presents It's a Wonderful Life, Church-McKee Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. For ticket information call 788-1069 or 788-1461.

February 4 – Alumni Reception in Fairmont at Muriales Restaurant. Contact Libby Nichols at 788-6870 for more information.



Photo by Liz Medcalf/Frostburg State University

Former PSC student Kristi Weigle (right) is shown with Dr. Michelle Bowe of Frostburg State University. The two have been involved with cancer-fighting research involving shrubbery in Western Maryland.

Faculty Member, Former Student Make the Ink in FSU Magazine

Instructor of English, Mary Edgerly, and former student, Kristi Weigle, were highlighted in the Summer 2002 edition of the Frostburg State University (FSU) Magazine, *Profile*.



Mary Edgerly

Edgerly is a member of the Thursday Night Writing Group, a group of writers who meet every other Thursday to critique one another's words. Edgerly joined the group about eight years ago around the time she was finishing her bachelor's degree at FSU. While she writes mostly fiction, she has also published a few poems. Edgerly was recognized in *Profile* as one of about 10 people who regularly participate in the gatherings, affectionately referred to as "The Little Writing Group That Could."

Edgerly states, "It's an honor to be associated with this talented group. They are my best friends and worst critics, and I wouldn't have it any other way. We have lots of fun, a little silliness and much devoted attention to the written word."

Former student and 2000 PSC graduate Kristi Weigle, who transferred to and earned a B.A. in biology from FSU, has been involved with research at that campus.

Weigle worked with Dr. Michelle Bowe of FSU to identify how rare the *Taxus canadensis* shrub is in Western Maryland. This shrub contains the substance Taxol, or paclitaxel, which is a potent cancer-fighting drug. Until their discovery, only the bark of the Pacific yew tree was found to contain this substance. According to Dr. Bowe, "We will try to get the paper published, although some additional work may be required."



Kati Corbin, a PROMISE scholarship recipient and freshman English major from Paw Paw, WV, is shown in the WQZK-FM studio while recording an ad for the College. Also participating in the marketing campaign were out-of-state, international, and non-traditional students as well as an athlete and new professor. The ads not only will run on the local station during the WVU football and basketball games but also on radio stations throughout the tri-state region. Shown working with Katie is Jack Mullen, proprietor of WQZK.

Smith Wins Writing Award

Mark Smith, Visiting Instructor in English at Potomac State College (PSC) of West Virginia University (WVU), was awarded First Place for Best Poetry Collection from the West Virginia Writers' Inc. (WVW).



Mark Smith

Each year an awards banquet is held in June to announce the winners of this contest, which is the largest creative writing contest in the state of West Virginia. WVW also sponsors an annual writer's retreat at Cedar Lakes Conference Center in southern West Virginia.

The title of the winning collection is *Words Homeward*. According to Smith, "The poems are about rural living, understanding humankind's relationship with nature, and attempting to reconnect with my grandparents, who are deceased. A few love poems were also included." Smith was influenced by Wendell Berry, John Keats and Pablo Neruda.

Smith serves as the adviser for the PSC Literary Club and editor of *New Voices: Best Student Essays at PSC of WVU*. He recently served as a judge for the 2002 West Virginia Poetry Society annual creative writing contest and has poems being published in *Laurels*.

In addition to attending writing workshops and holding membership in various writing associations, Smith has also been published in *Riverrun*, *Screaming Zebra*, *West Virginia Words*, and *Calliope*.